

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 65 – 70 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 26 – 29 and 31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,762. In response, Applicant submitted a Terminal Disclaimer on December 17, 2004 to overcome the examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 65 - 70.

In addition, the Examiner rejected independent claim 71 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,537,416. However, the Examiner indicated that claim 72, which depends from claim 71, is allowable except for its dependence on a rejected base claim. As indicated in the above amendments, claim 71 now includes the limitations of claim 72. As a result, claim 71 stands in condition for allowance.

In light of the above amendments and the Terminal Disclaimer mailed on December 17, 2004, claims 65 – 71 stand in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider the rejections and move the application forward to allowance. Should any issues remain unresolved, Applicant requests the Examiner call the undersigned so that such issues may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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